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7 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Manned Space Station

The Cabinet will soon consider the national security need for US space operations to include a permanently manned space station. The justification for the rather large proposed expenditures will be heavily influenced by our intelligence assessment of Soviet military goals and efforts in space in the 1990s. However, this threat assessment needs to be balanced against the other major Soviet military threats that the US and its allies will be facing during the same time period. For instance if the Soviets greatly enhance their ground warfare capability throughout the 1980s, the US and its NATO allies would be required to spend billions of dollars more on both ground weapons research and production than we now intend. If more were to be allocated for space, it could draw down on this type of future requirement.

I would like OSWR in concert with SOVA to conduct a future weapons assessment of the overall military threat that the Soviets are likely to pose during the 1990s. This future threat model should describe the kinds of weapons by their general mission objectives, e.g., spacebased to include ASAT and BDM; naval to include SSBN, antiship, ASW and aircraft carriers; ground to include tank SRBM, tactical air defense, etc. Furthermore, the make up of each mission area should be displayed in relative size for the 1985 and the 1995 time periods. "Pie charts" should suffice to show these proportions. OSWR should attempt to indicate how the relative military threat will change for each, showing whether the threat to US/Western forces will increase or decrease in that mission area.

I like the approach taken by the OSWR/SOVA team in developing the weapon-mission analysis in the draft NIE 11-12 work and would like to have the two offices work together on this task along the same lines.

William J. Casey

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